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# Public Health Update November 29, 2012

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## World AIDS Day

On December 1, US CDC and partners worldwide observe World AIDS Day. The theme, "Working Together for an AIDS-Free Generation," highlights the promise of new research and prevention efforts that help stop the spread of HIV.

This month's Vital Signs from US CDC features the topic HIV Among Youth in the US. More than half of young HIV-infected Americans are not aware of their status. Young people between the ages of 13 and 24 represent more than a quarter of new HIV infections each year, and 60% of these youth living with HIV. For more information, see the Vital Signs feature: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/gbc4">http://go.usa.gov/gbc4</a>

In honor of World AIDS Day, Maine CDC's HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis Program is displaying a section of the internationally celebrated AIDS Memorial Quilt - the 54-ton, handmade tapestry that stands as a memorial to more than 94,000 individuals lost to AIDS -in the lobby of the Key Bank Plaza at 286 Water Street in Augusta until December 5. Visitors may attend Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The panel being displayed represents Mainers who have lost their lives to AIDS. There are currently more than 1,600 people living with HIV in Maine, including more than 50 who were newly diagnosed in 2011. The AIDS Memorial Quilt has evolved as a potent tool in the effort to educate against the lethal threat of AIDS by revealing the humanity behind the statistics.



Maine CDC's HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis Program gathers in front of a panel from the "Names Project - AIDS Memorial Quilt."

Various organizations across the state are offering testing, holding memorials, and hosting awareness events. For a list of World AIDS Day events in Maine, see this list: http://go.usa.gov/gbrj

#### For more information:

- World AIDS Day: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/gbYP">http://go.usa.gov/gbYP</a>
- The AIDS Memorial Quilt: http://www.aidsquilt.org/
- Maine CDC's HIV, STD, and Viral Hepatitis Program: www.mainepublichealth.gov/hiv

## Pertussis (whooping cough)

More than 630 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) have been reported in Maine this year; however, reported cases appear to be on a downward trend. Most reported cases have been in children ages 7 to 19. Close to 30 cases have been reported in children younger than 1 year old. Weekly updates on pertussis in Maine are posted to <a href="https://www.mainepublichealth.gov">www.mainepublichealth.gov</a> on Thursdays.

DTaP vaccine is recommended for all infants and children. Tdap vaccine is recommended for all preteens, teens, and adults.

For more information, visit <a href="http://go.usa.gov/dCO">http://go.usa.gov/dCO</a>

### Influenza

### Recently released federal reports and resources

- Diabetes. In 2010, an estimated 18.8 million persons in the United States had diagnosed diabetes and another 7.0 million had undiagnosed diabetes. Since 1990, the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in the United States has risen sharply among all age groups, both sexes, and all racial/ethnic groups for which data are available. During 1995–2010, the age-adjusted prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among adults in Maine increased 117%. For more information, see this MMWR: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/gbck">http://go.usa.gov/gbck</a>
- Infant suffocation. Unintentional suffocation is the leading cause of injury death among children younger than 1 year-old in the United States, accounting for nearly 1,000 infant deaths annually. Since 1984, an estimated fourfold increase has been observed in accidental suffocation and strangulation in bed, with many of these deaths linked to unsafe sleep environments. For more information, see this MMWR: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/gbcz">http://go.usa.gov/gbcz</a>
- **Tobacco cessation.** The US Department of Health & Human Services has launched a new website, <a href="www.BeTobaccoFree.gov">www.BeTobaccoFree.gov</a>, which brings together the best information HHS has on the health effects of tobacco, quitting smoking, and more. For local resources, visit <a href="www.tobaccofreemaine.org">www.tobaccofreemaine.org</a> or call 1-800-207-1230

Maine CDC reported regional flu activity for the week ending November 24. Weekly updates on flu activity are available online:

for Maine: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/NoK">http://go.usa.gov/NoK</a>
for the US: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/ITB">http://go.usa.gov/ITB</a>
for the world: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/ITK">http://go.usa.gov/ITK</a>

Maine CDC reminds everyone to take everyday preventive measures against the flu:

- Wash your hands frequently
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or shoulder
- Stay home when you feel sick
- Get vaccinated find locations at www.flu.gov

The FDA has approved the first seasonal flu vaccine produced using cultured animal cells, instead of fertilized chicken eggs. Flucelvax is available for people 18 and older. This is not the first cell-based vaccine approved for use in the U.S. Polio, smallpox, rotavirus and other vaccines are produced using cell-based technology. For more information: <a href="http://go.usa.gov/gbgF">http://go.usa.gov/gbgF</a>

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination, as well as fostering greater use of flu vaccine after the holiday season into January and beyond. NIVW will be held December 2-8. For more information: http://go.usa.gov/gb4T

For more information and clinical recommendations for this flu season, see the Nov. 5 health alert at <a href="http://go.usa.gov/YSTQ">http://go.usa.gov/YSTQ</a>

## Injection safety

Injection safety is part of the minimum expectation for safe care anywhere healthcare is delivered; yet, US CDC has had to investigate numerous outbreaks of life-threatening infections caused by injection errors. Since 2001, at least 150,000 U.S. patients have been negatively impacted by unsafe medical injections. When healthcare providers fail to follow basic infection control practices during injection preparation and administration, patients can be exposed to life-threatening illnesses such as hepatitis and/or bacterial infections.

US CDC has just released several new education pieces at <a href="http://bit.ly/SetzcX">http://bit.ly/SetzcX</a>

#### MPHA event

Maine Public Health Association's second annual Evening Meeting, "Graceful Synergy: Defining the Partnership Between Public Health and Accountable Care," will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Grace Restaurant, 15 Chestnut Street, Portland.

The event will feature speakers from Maine discussing the challenges and opportunities of linking public health and clinical medicine, what the future may hold and the benefits to the healthcare system, the public health system and the people of Maine. There will also be a silent auction.

For more information and to register: <a href="http://conta.cc/10WMptV">http://conta.cc/10WMptV</a>

Maine CDC recently partnered with Allen and Coles Moving Company as well as other business and residents of Maine to provide clothing, cleaning supplies, nonperishable foods, and pet supplies to assist those affected by super storm Sandy in New York and New Jersey.







## Follow us

#### Follow Maine CDC's Social Media Updates:

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/MaineCDC)
- Twitter (http://twitter.com/MEPublicHealth)
- Blog (<u>http://mainepublichealth.blogspot.com</u>)

You may subscribe to these updates for free through an RSS feed at <a href="http://go.usa.gov/G6u">http://go.usa.gov/G6u</a>. In Internet Explorer and Firefox, you will be prompted to Subscribe to the Feed and then select the folder where feeds are stored.

For clinical consultation and outbreak management guidance, call Maine CDC's toll-free 24-hour phone line: 1-800-821-5821

For questions and potential exposure to poison, call the Poison Center's 24-hour phone line: 1-800-222-1222